

CONTRACT

BETWEEN

**OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
&
OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

EMPLOYER

AND

OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE CLERICAL

ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING

PROSECUTOR CLERICAL EMPLOYEES

APRIL 1, 2023 - MARCH 31, 2026

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AGREEMENT

This Agreement, executed the 17th day of February 2024 has been negotiated between the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and Ocean County Prosecutor, hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Employer", and the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Clerical Association representing Prosecutor's Clerical employees hereinafter referred to as "Union."

ARTICLE 1 **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth herein all negotiable terms and conditions of employment.

ARTICLE 2 **RECOGNITION OF UNION**

The Employer recognizes the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Clerical Association as the exclusive representative of all White Collar employees of the Prosecutor's Office. Said Union is permitted to negotiate with the Employer for the purposes provided for under Chapter 303, Public Laws of 1968 and Chapter 123, Public Laws of 1974, with respect to salary, hours and those terms and conditions of employment permitted by said statutes. This Agreement specifically includes all non-supervisory White Collar employees employed by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and excludes managerial executives, confidential employees, supervisors within the meaning of the Act, professional employees, police, casual employees and all other employees of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office.

ARTICLE 3 **MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

- A. The Employer hereby retains and reserves unto itself, without limitations, all powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities conferred and vested in it prior to the signing of this Agreement by the laws and Constitutions of the State of New Jersey and of the United States; including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following rights:
1. All management functions and responsibilities which the Employer has not expressly modified or restricted by a specific provision of this Agreement.
 2. The right to establish and administer policies and procedures related to personnel matters, Employer control activities, training, operational functions, performance of services and maintenance of the facilities and equipment of the Board.

3. To reprimand, suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline employees.
4. To hire, promote, transfer, assign, reassign, lay off and recall employees to work.
5. To determine the number of employees and the duties to be performed.
6. To maintain the efficiency of employees; to establish, expand, reduce, alter, combine, consolidate or abolish any job or job classification, department or operation of service.
7. To determine staffing patterns and areas worked, to control and regulate the use of facilities, supplies, equipment, materials and any other property of the Employer.
8. To determine the number, location and operation of divisions, departments, work sections and all other work units of the Employer, the assignment of work, the qualifications required, the performance standards and the size and composition of the work force.
9. To subcontract for any existing or future services as determined necessary by the Board. In the event the Employer subcontracts work out, every attempt will be made to transfer said employees to work he/she is currently performing or work he/she is capable of performing at no loss of pay where possible.
10. To make or change Employer rules, regulations, policies and practices consistent with the specific terms and provisions of this Agreement.
11. And otherwise to generally manage the affairs of the Employer, attain and maintain full operating efficiency and productivity and to direct the work force.

The exercise of the foregoing powers, rights, authority, duties and responsibilities of the Employer shall only be limited by the language of this Agreement.

In recognition of the rulings of the Courts of New Jersey the parties recognize that the exercise of managerial rights is a responsibility of the Employer on behalf of the taxpayers and that the Employer cannot bargain away or eliminate any of its managerial rights. Therefore, no grievances may be filed under this Agreement which in any way interferes with, undermines or restricts the exercise of any managerial right by the Employer or any of its authorized managerial executives or supervisory personnel.

ARTICLE 4 **NO STRIKE CLAUSE**

During the period of time of this Agreement and notwithstanding any change in

existing law, the Union and its employees shall not have the right to engage in any slowdown, work stoppage, strike or similar type of concerted action activities. The sole method for resolving any disagreement concerning this Agreement or any other elements of employment relationship shall be covered by the procedure contained in this Agreement or legal remedies available to the parties that do not constitute strikes or work stoppages.

The Union agrees that if any type of concerted activity occurs as noted above, the Union will immediately take all necessary steps to terminate such activities and will condemn such activities.

No lockout of employees shall be instituted or supported by the County during the term of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

1. Definitions

- A. A "grievance" is an allegation by an employee or the Union that a specific provision of this Agreement has been violated. These grievances may only be submitted to binding arbitration as a final step in the procedure. The term "grievance" does not include any claim or allegation involving a disciplinary action or discharge of any employee who is not a permanent employee as defined by N.J.A.C. 4A:1-1.3.
- B. All other allegations that there has been a violation, misinterpretation or a misapplication of policies, rules and administrative decisions may be submitted to all steps of the grievance procedure up to the Prosecutor's level, and the Prosecutor's decision on these matters will be final and binding. These non-contract grievances may not be submitted to binding arbitration.
- C. Nothing in this procedure shall preclude an employee from exercising his/her legal or New Jersey Department of Personnel rights.
- D. A "grievant" is an employee who files a grievance.
- E. "Representative" is a person or agent designated to represent either party in this procedure.
- F. "Day" means workday.
- G. "Party in interest" is a person, agent or agency with an interest in the grievance.

- H. "Class grievance" is a formal grievance by two (2) or more employees.
- I. "Group grievance" is the same or similar formal grievance by two (2) or more employees each in the same department.

2. Procedures

- A. Grievances shall be processed promptly and expeditiously.
- B. Formal grievances and appeals shall be filed in writing.
- C. Communications and decisions concerning formal grievances shall be in writing.
- D. A grievant shall be permitted a representative at all levels of the procedure and witnesses as determined by the hearing officer, provided requests for such are filed two (2) days prior to the hearing.
- E. Grievance may only be advanced by Step 2 or higher by Union Officers or Shop Stewards.
- F. There shall be no additional evidence submitted during the grievance process once a grievance has been submitted to the County Prosecutor.
- G. Failure by a grievant to process a grievance within the specified time limits shall render the grievance as settled in favor of the Employer.
- H. Failure by the Chief Clerk to issue a decision within the specified time limits shall render the grievance advanced to the next level.
- I. Class grievances shall be filed at Level 2 within ten (10) days of the occurrence of a class grievance.

3. Processing

- A. Time Limit - The number of workdays indicated at each level should be considered as a maximum and every effort should be made to expedite the process. The time limit specified may, however, be extended by mutual consent of the parties.

All grievances shall be discussed with the immediate supervisor prior to submission of a written statement as required below. However, to be timely filed, the written statement required below must be filed within fifteen (15) workdays of the occurrence of the grievance.

- B. Step 1 - The grievant and/or his/her representative shall present a written statement of the alleged grievance to the Chief Clerk. The grievant must file the written grievance within fifteen (15) workdays of the occurrence of the grievance. The Chief Clerk will review the grievance and investigate the facts and submit a written answer to the grievant within seven (7) workdays of the submission date on the grievance form. In the event that the grievance directly pertains to the Chief Clerk the matter in dispute will be advanced to Step 2 of the Grievance Procedure.
- C. Step 2 - If the grievant is dissatisfied with the answer submitted by the Chief Clerk during the Step 1 of this process, then the Union Representative may appeal the Chief Clerk's written answer within seven (7) work days after receipt of the answer at the first step by the grievant.

The Prosecutor or his/her designee shall review the grievance appeal, investigate the facts and submit a written answer to the Union Representative within seven (7) workdays of the submission of the grievance at Step 2.

- D. Step 3 - If the grievant is still dissatisfied with the answer received from the Prosecutor and the grievance is a matter of contract violation, then the grievance may be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the procedure outlined below:
1. Within twenty (20) work days of the decision of the Prosecutor, the Union Representative may request arbitration of the grievance by filing notice of the grievant's continued disagreement with the Employer.
 2. Within five (5) workdays of such notice, the Union Representative shall request a list of arbitrators from the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission.
 3. Within five (5) workdays of the receipt of such list, an arbitrator shall be selected by alternately striking names from the list; the Union Representative striking first. If the arbitrator is unable to serve, another list shall be requested and the process repeated, unless the time is extended by mutual agreement.
 4. Within twenty (20) workdays of notice of selection, the designated arbitrator shall establish a hearing date, shall establish rules governing such a hearing and shall conduct such hearing, except as provided otherwise herein.
 5. The arbitrator must first rule on the arbitrability of the grievance if so

requested by either party.

6. The arbitrator shall have no power to add to, subtract from or alter the language of this Agreement. He/she shall have no power to make an award inconsistent with law and shall have no power to entertain grievances that do not constitute violations of this Agreement. The arbitrator shall rule only on the interpretation of the clause of the Agreement involved.
7. The arbitrator shall have no power to make an award or, in any matter which is not within the Employer's power to implement, including monetary awards, require appropriations from governmental agencies other than the Board of Commissioners or the Prosecutor.
8. The arbitrator's decision shall be binding on all parties on matters regarding violations of the contract, except that if his/her decision requires Legislative action, such decisions shall be effective only if such legislation is enacted.
9. The cost of the services of the arbitrator shall be shared equally by the parties in interest.
10. An arbitrator shall be empowered to hear only one grievance for each appointment he/she receives; provided, however, that in the event there is more than one grievance presented and the grievances arise out of the same set of facts or involve the same materially and substantially identical issues, a single arbitrator shall be empowered to adjudicate all such grievances. It is expressly understood and agreed that the grievance procedure shall be the sole and exclusive remedy for all grievances which are arbitrable under this Agreement.

4. General Provisions

1. No prejudice will attend any party in interest by reason of the utilization or participation in the grievance procedure.
2. The filing, pendency or hearing of any grievance shall not impede the normal management of the work force or operation of any of the Board's agencies.
3. All records of grievance processing shall be filed separately.
4. Forms for grievance processing shall be mutually agreed upon by the parties to the Agreement.

5. Parties in interest will cooperate in investigating and providing pertinent information concerning a grievance being processed.
6. Notice of hearings shall be made to the grievant at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance and such hearings shall be held on the Employer's premises.
7. The Employer agrees that in the presentation of a grievance there shall be no loss of pay for the time spent in presenting the grievance by the grievant, and one (1) Union Representative and witnesses who are employees of the Employer throughout the grievance procedure. However, no employees or officials will be permitted to investigate or process grievances during working hours without the approval of the Chief Clerk or the Prosecutor.

ARTICLE 6 **EMPLOYEE MANUALS**

Personnel Handbooks and an Office Policy Manual have been prepared and distributed to all employees within the bargaining unit. Should information contained within these documents conflict with the provisions of this collective bargaining agreement, the collective bargaining agreement prevails.

ARTICLE 7 **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The parties agree that they will comply with all State and Federal statutes regarding discrimination.

ARTICLE 8 **HOLIDAYS**

Each full-time employee covered by this Agreement shall enjoy the following holidays with pay, to be observed on the dates specified each January by the Board of Commissioners:

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King Day	Columbus Day
Presidents Day	Veteran's Day
Good Friday	Election Day
Memorial Day	Thanksgiving Day
Juneteenth	Christmas Day
Independence Day	

The Employer will comply in granting a holiday whenever the Governor of the State of New Jersey and the Board of Commissioners takes an official action to declare an extra holiday. Employees working on any of the above days shall receive overtime pay at a rate of time and one-half (1 1/2X) for all hours worked plus one (1) day straight time wages.

ARTICLE 9
LONGEVITY PAY

- A. Longevity Pay for all classified permanent employees covered by this Agreement will be based upon the schedule set forth below:

7 years	3.0% of base salary
12 years	4.6% of base salary
17 years	5.7% of base salary
22 years	6.5% of base salary
27 years	7.3% of base salary
32 years	8.0% of base salary

This provision will be eliminated for all new employees hired on or after April 1, 2013.

- B. Effective January 4, 2024, the elimination of longevity for full-time employees hired after April 1, 2013 shall be eliminated. Thus, as of January 4, 2024, all full-time bargaining unit members shall be eligible for Longevity in accordance with the following schedule:

5 years	2.0% of base salary
7 years	3.0% of base salary
12 years	4.6% of base salary
17 years	5.7% of base salary
22 years	6.5% of base salary
27 years	7.3% of base salary
32 years	8.0% of base salary

There shall be no retroactive effective of this reinstatement of longevity (or created new 2% level at 5 years). Thus, no back-longevity will be owed to any bargaining unit member.

ARTICLE 10
BEREAVEMENT PROVISION

All employees shall have up to three (3) days leave in the event of the death of a spouse, common-law spouse, child, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandchild uncle or aunt of the employee, or any other member of the immediate household. One (1) day leave will be given to attend the funeral services of a spouse's aunt, uncle or grandparent.

Such leave will not be taken until the immediate supervisor is notified of the instance of bereavement. The Employer may require proof of loss of a decedent whenever such requirement appears reasonable. Bereavement leave is specifically provided to allow eligible employees time to make necessary arrangements and attend funeral services. Therefore, bereavement leave must include one of the following days:

Date of death
Any day of viewing
Date of interment
Day of religious or memorial service

In no event shall any part of bereavement leave occur more than fifteen (15) days from the date of death.

ARTICLE 11
PERSONAL LEAVE

Each employee may be eligible for three (3) days Personal Leave which may be used for personal business which cannot be conducted after the work day. Personal Leave days are considered "earned" on January 1st, May 1st and September 1st of each calendar year. Use of personal days shall require forty-eight (48) hours notice, except in the case of any emergency.

The employee must have the permission of his/her immediate supervisor before Personal Leave can be taken and Personal Leave time shall not be accumulative. Personal Leave shall not be unreasonably denied.

For new employees in their first calendar year of service, Personal Leave shall be earned, in hours, as follows:

<u>Date of Initial Hire</u>	<u>Number of Personal Leave</u>
January 1 thru April 30	3 days
May 1 thru August 31	2 days
September 1 thru October 31	1 day
November 1 thru December 31	0 days

Employees hired on or after October 1 through October 31 of their first calendar year in service may use the one personal day to be awarded to them after two months of service, but must use that day prior to the end of the calendar year. Except for employees hired on or after October 1 through October 31 of their initial calendar year of service, no employee shall be entitled to use Personal Leave until he/she has worked three months for the County.

Personal days shall not be carried over from one calendar year to the next. Effective with the execution of this Agreement, personal days may be taken in ½ day increments.

ARTICLE 12

DUES CHECKOFF

Following the successful completion of the ninety (90) day working test period, the Employer agrees to deduct from the earnings of each employee union member dues, initiation fees and special assessments when said employee has properly authorized such deductions in writing. The Union will indemnify, defend and save harmless the Employer against any and all such claims, demands, suits or other forms of liability that shall arise out of or by reason of action taken by the Employer in reliance upon salary deduction authorization cards submitted by the Union to the Employer. The Employer will forward all dues deduction monies collected on a monthly basis to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Clerical Association. A list of the names of deductees will be forwarded annually.

The parties agree that for the term of this Agreement, in accordance with New Jersey statutes, any employee who is a member of this bargaining unit on the effective date of this Agreement who is not a member of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Clerical Association shall pay an agency shop fee up to the maximum allowed by law based on the dues, initiation fees and special assessments of the Union. Such fees shall be deducted from the pay of employees affected on the basis of authorization provided by the Union. The Union agrees to save the Employer harmless from any and all actions it takes under this Article.

ARTICLE 13

VACATION TIME

Vacation leave will be granted to each full-time employee, in hours, on the following basis:

1. For an employee with no more than twelve (12) months of service....one (1)

day, in hours, for each calendar month employed.

2. For an employee who has served one (1) year and one (1) day up to a total of four (4) years....twelve (12) working days, in hours, per year.
3. For an employee who has served four (4) years and one (1) day up to eleven (11) years....fifteen (15) working days, in hours, per year.
4. For an employee who has served eleven (11) years and one (1) day up to nineteen (19) years....twenty (20) working days, in hours, per year.
5. For an employee who has served nineteen (19) years and one (1) day....twenty-five (25) working days, in hours, per year.

New full-time employees, both provisional and permanent, shall earn, but are not permitted to use, vacation leave during the first three months of employment. Employees who are not retained at the conclusion of the three month period shall not be entitled to any leave accumulated during that time.

Each employee shall be informed of his/her Vacation Time through utilization of the County's computer system. Any employee leaving the service of the County shall have unused Vacation Time paid to him/her on a pro-rated basis. If separation of service occurs, unearned Vacation Time used will be deducted from the employee's last pay along with any other unearned time that the employee has utilized.

ARTICLE 14 **SICK LEAVE**

Sick Leave shall be accumulated at the rate of one and one-quarter (1 1/4) days per month, credited in hours, in the first twelve months of service, commencing on the first month or major portion thereof from day of hire. New full-time employees, both provisional and permanent, shall earn, but are not permitted to use, Sick Leave during the first three (3) months of employment. Employees who are not retained at the conclusion of the three (3) month period shall not be entitled to any leave accumulated during that time.

Sick Leave may be used as credited even though it has not technically been earned, provided that the employee has worked for the Employer in good standing and without any pattern of leave abuse for a period of one (1) full calendar year after the calendar year in which employment began, subject to proper notification.

It is assumed that the employee shall remain in the service of the County for the remainder of the calendar year and the total number of sick hours, pro-rated, shall be credited to the employee in hours. If separation occurs before the end of the year and more Sick Leave has been taken than appropriated on a pro-rated basis, the per diem rate of

pay for the excess days shall be deducted from the final pay. Sick Leave may accumulate from year to year with an additional fifteen (15) days credited in hours to the employee at the beginning of each successive calendar year. Days lost due to injury or illness arising out of or caused by County employment for which the employee has a claim for Worker's Compensation shall not be charged to Sick Leave. Paid holidays occurring during a period of Sick Leave shall not be chargeable to Sick Leave.

Employees in this bargaining unit are eligible for coverage under the County's Reimbursement for Sick Days at Retirement Policy. This Policy provides for the reimbursement of unused sick hours at retirement on the basis of one-half pay for each earned and unused sick day to a maximum of \$15,000. Employees have a choice of selecting either a lump sum payment or payments spread over a three (3) year period. Employees are responsible for following all of the conditions and controls of this policy and all forms pertinent to the policy must be filled out and submitted to the Department of Employee Relations at least sixty (60) days prior to the date retirement commences.

ARTICLE 15 **UNION LEAVE**

Members of the bargaining unit may use up to a total of fifteen (15) days - ten (10) paid and five (5) unpaid for Union business leave during each subsequent contract year. Union Officers or Shop Stewards must request utilization of the leave from the Prosecutor at least forty-eight (48) hours before it is to commence and the taking of such leave shall not impede the operation of any County department when taken. All use of such leave shall be reported to the Union to insure that the employees are actually utilizing the leave for Union business. Use of Union Leave must directly pertain to the Prosecutor's Clerical employees represented by this contract. Joint County/Union discussions, authorized by the Director of Employee Relations or the Prosecutor about matters of mutual concern, shall not be applied against this benefit.

ARTICLE 16 **SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

If any part, clause, portion or article of this Agreement is subsequently deemed by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal, such clause, portion or article may be deleted and the remainder of the Agreement not so affected shall continue in full force and effect absent the affected clause.

ARTICLE 17
PRODUCTIVITY

The Union agrees that it will cooperate with the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and the Prosecutor, its agents in any productivity programs adopted by the Board or the Prosecutor concerning members of this bargaining unit. The Union agrees that it supports and will cooperate with all efforts of the Board and the Prosecutor to increase and improve productivity among members of this bargaining unit.

ARTICLE 18
VISION CARE

Vision Care benefits will be afforded to all members of the bargaining unit in accordance with the provisions set forth in the "Guidelines for Ocean County Vision Service Plan".

ARTICLE 19
CALL-IN PAY

Any employee who leaves his/her work station and is required to return to work from his/her home shall be compensated with a guarantee of four (4) hours work upon the employee's return to his/her work location for the call-in work assignment. No employee will be paid less than four (4) hours wages for the four (4) hour period at the applicable rate at the time of call-in.

ARTICLE 20
OVERTIME

All employees shall be expected to complete their work in the time allotted during the normal working day. Any forty (40) hour per week employee scheduled to work beyond his/her regularly scheduled work day shall be paid at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2X) times their base pay after the completion of eight (8) hours work in any scheduled work day or forty (40) hours in any scheduled work week.

Employees who work less than a forty (40) hour per week schedule, i.e. 35 hours, 37.5 hours shall receive straight time compensation for hours worked up to forty (40) hours inclusive in a workweek. Any hours worked passed forty (40) hours in a workweek shall be compensated at one and one-half (1 1/2X) times their base pay.

If an employee is required to work on a Saturday or Sunday, unless those days are part of the employees' normal work week or schedule, he/she shall receive overtime compensation for hours worked on the weekend at the rate of one and one-half (1 1/2X) times the base hourly wage. This provision shall also apply to permanent part-time

employees who are members of this bargaining unit.

At the request of the employee and with the prior approval of the Department Head, the employee may receive compensatory time at the applicable rate.

Overtime opportunities shall be afforded members of the bargaining group consistent with Article 25 - Seniority. In the event that all employees who are offered a particular overtime assignment decline to accept the assignment, the least senior employee who is offered the assignment and who is qualified to perform the assignment shall be obligated to accept it. No employee will be permitted to accept an overtime assignment if the employee does not possess the skill and ability to perform the work.

ARTICLE 21

JOB CLASSIFICATION

- A. An employee will work within his/her own applicable job classification in accordance with the specifications set forth for his/her applicable classification under the New Jersey Department of Personnel job descriptions.
- B. An employee's permanent applicable job classification shall not include a combination of New Jersey Department of Personnel job descriptions.
- C. Definitions of transfers and re-assignments shall be in accordance with those contained in the New Jersey Department of Personnel Rules.
- D. If in the event an employee is assigned to perform work in a job classification higher than his/her regular title for two (2) or more complete work days, he/she shall be compensated at a daily rate which is ten percent (10%) higher than his/her regular base salary, retroactive to the first day of such service.
- E. In the event a member of this bargaining unit is assigned to perform work in a supervisory title (WCS), the daily out-of-title rate shall be based upon that employee's regular base salary plus \$2,000. This rate is payable for all days members of the bargaining unit are assigned to a supervisory title, retroactive to the first day of such service, once the two (2) day requirement has been satisfied.
- F. If an employee is required to work in a lower job classification than his/her regular job classification, he/she shall receive his/her regular rate of pay.
- G. Every attempt will be made to provide clear instructions and adequate training when Prosecutor's Clerical Employees are requested to perform outside their job classification.

ARTICLE 22
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

A. Statement of Policy Conditions and Eligibility:

1. Permanent full-time employees may be eligible for tuition reimbursement of eighty (80) percent of tuition cost up to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) per semester, not to exceed Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) per year.

The parties agree to continue discussions relative to the tuition reimbursement amount provided to employees on an annual basis. The parties agree to continue negotiations through July 2024.

2. Under no circumstances shall an employer be obligated to reimburse for any educational expense except tuition. Travel, fees, textbooks, materials and other non-tuition items specifically excluded.
3. The Department Head will approve of the courses in advance and certify that they are directly related to improving the performance of the County employee in his/her job classification and that funds exist in the departmental budget for the expenses to be incurred. The signature on the purchase requisition will indicate their approval.
4. Only courses offered through accredited institutes of higher learning will qualify for reimbursement.
5. Reimbursement will be contingent upon successful completion of the course as evidenced by a certificate or grade report which will accompany the voucher. Successful completion is defined as a final grade of C or better or in the case where grades are not used, a final result of "pass".
6. Except in unusual circumstances approval will not be granted for courses which require the employees to be absent during their normal work day.
7. A candidate for an Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree or an advanced degree who expects at least fifty percent (50%) of the expenses to be borne by the Ocean County government will be required to sign an agreement indicating that he/she will not leave the employment of the County government for a one-year period after receiving that degree.

B. Procedures:

1. Tuition Reimbursement Request Form ER193 must be completed by the

employee. A brief course description, itemized bill and proof of payment must accompany form.

2. Employee will indicate degree or non-degree program. If degree program, please indicate if contract is on file. If it is not, please contact Employee Relations for the necessary paperwork. Request will not be processed without signed Contract Agreement.
3. A purchase requisition must accompany the request form. The Department Head's signature on the purchase requisition indicates approval for the tuition reimbursement. Electronic purchase requisitions cannot be accepted.
4. The Tuition Reimbursement Form, purchase requisition and all necessary paperwork must be submitted to Employee Relations PRIOR to the start of the course. Requests may be denied if received after the start date.
5. Upon review and approval by Employee Relations, the purchase requisition will be forwarded to Purchasing for processing. Copies of the approved Tuition Reimbursement form will be forwarded to Finance and the employee's department.
6. Upon successful completion of the course(s) the employee shall forward the payment voucher and proof of successful completion to Finance for reimbursement.

ARTICLE 23

PROMOTIONAL REMUNERATION

Any employee within the bargaining unit who receives a promotion shall receive a promotional remuneration or the minimum for the title, effective on the date of promotion, whichever is greater. Effective April 1, 2023, and retroactive thereto, the promotional remuneration shall be Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.).

ARTICLE 24

SENIORITY

- A. All employees are to be notified of promotional opportunities and vacancies prior to filling a position.
- B. Seniority, which is defined as continuous, unbroken service with the employer, will be given consideration by the employer with respect to promotions, however, service will be considered broken for the purpose of this clause, if an employee who

has served continuously with the employer for at least one (1) year:

1. Should resign his/her position and not be rehired by said employer within three (3) months of said resignation.
 2. Should an employee retire.
 3. Should an employee suffer a validated dismissal.
 4. Should an employee request and receive a voluntary transfer out of the bargaining unit or out of the work force of the Board.
 5. Should an employee be absent without leave for more than five (5) days.
- C. The employer shall fill permanent job openings by promoting employees from the next lower rated job titles, provided these employees possess the requirements enunciated by the New Jersey Department of Personnel's laws and who are subsequently certified by the New Jersey Department of Personnel. In all instances, employees promoted must possess the skills, ability and knowledge to perform the duties required by the higher rated job as determined by the Employee Relations Director. A job description shall accompany all posted promotions.
- D. If there are two (2) or more employees with equal skill and ability to perform work at the discretion of the administration, the employee with the greatest seniority shall be given preference. If the employee with the greatest seniority cannot perform the higher rated job, then the administration shall promote the employee which is deemed to be next eligible.
- E. Vacations - Whenever more than one employee requests vacation at a job location at any particular time, the Prosecutor shall endeavor to honor all vacations as requested. However, when vacations cannot be granted to all employees requesting vacations for a particular period, the employees with the greatest seniority shall be granted their vacations first. No employee will be permitted to take a vacation during the peak period of work for his/her department. Peak periods will be designated by the administration each year. A White Collar employee, regardless of title, who shall be transferred into this Unit, is to be placed at the bottom of the list for bidding for vacation selection.

ARTICLE 25 **MILEAGE**

Costs for mileage shall be reimbursed in accordance with the prevailing County policy.

ARTICLE 26
PERSONNEL FILES

The employer agrees that upon request with reasonable notice, an employee shall have the opportunity to examine and review pertinent documents, including those related to performance evaluation and conduct in their personnel history file or in any permanent supplementary file maintained by the employee's supervisor.

The County shall honor the request of the employee for copies of documents in the file. The employee may file a written response of reasonable length to any memoranda or documents which are derogatory or adverse to them. Such response will be included in the relevant permanent personnel file or supplementary personnel file and will be attached to and retained with the documents in question. If any material, derogatory or adverse to an employee is placed in the employee's personnel file, a copy of such material shall be sent to the employee. No document of anonymous origin shall be used against an employee.

ARTICLE 27
ASSOCIATION LIAISON

One liaison officer of the Association to meet periodically with the County Prosecutor or his/her designee to discuss the contract and/or mutual concerns.

ARTICLE 28
NIGHT DIFFERENTIAL

Night Differential of eight percent (8%) will be paid to any White Collar employees whose permanent shift begins after 2:00 P.M.

ARTICLE 29
WORK HOURS

The Prosecutor shall have the option of selecting a workweek of either 37 1/2 or 40 hours. For each additional 2 1/2 hours worked per week the employee shall receive a 7.5% increase on their base salary. The Prosecutor shall retain the right to adjust the regular workweek to a greater or lesser number of hours. The base salary for employees whose regular workweek is so adjusted shall be expanded or contracted by 7.5% of the base salary for each 2 1/2 hours the workweek is correspondingly lengthened or shortened. Prosecutor employees' work hours will be set by the Prosecutor and will continue to include the one-half (1/2) hour unpaid daily lunch they currently receive, as well as two fifteen (15) minute paid rest periods daily, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

ARTICLE 30
HOSPITAL, SURGICAL, MAJOR MEDICAL, PRESCRIPTION
AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS

All full-time members covered by this bargaining unit shall be permitted to enroll in health benefits two (2) months from their date of hire.

- A. The County of Ocean currently provides medical coverage to County employees through the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program as supplemented by the NJ Local Prescription Drug Program and Chapter 88 P.L. 1974.
- B. The County shall not change the health coverage referred to in paragraph A except for a plan that is equivalent or better. Provided, however, that the parties expressly recognize that the components of HMO plans are changed periodically by the plan providers and that the County has no control over or any obligations regarding such changes.
- C.
 - 1. All employees current and future who retire on or after September 1, 2008 in order to be eligible for the lifetime health benefits upon retirement, must have served a minimum of fifteen (15) of the required twenty-five (25) years with the County. This applies to all types of retirements, including disability.
 - 2. Effective upon executive of the 2023-2026 collective negotiations agreement, any member of the bargaining unit who retires after the execution of this agreement must have served a minimum of seven (7) with the County (twenty-five (25) years total in the pension system) in order to be eligible for the lifetime health benefits upon retirement.
 - 3. Effective September 1, 2008, the following changes will affect new hires:
 - a) Employees will be offered the NJ Direct 15 plan, or its replacement. New hires may elect a higher level of coverage at their expense, in addition to the Chapter 78 contribution amounts.
 - b) Continuation of spousal coverage after the death of the retiree will no longer be offered at the County's expense, in addition to the requirements of Chapter 78.
 - c) The County will no longer reimburse retiree Medicare Part B premiums.
 - 4. For all employees hired after the execution of this collective negotiations agreement:

- a) The County will offer the OMNIA Plan, or its replacement. The employees may elect a higher level of coverage by paying the difference between the cost of OMNIA and the selected plan at their expense, in addition to the Chapter 78 contribution amounts.
- b) Continuation of spousal coverage after the death of the retiree is not offered at the County's expense, and has not been offered since September 1, 2008 as indicated above.
- C. The County will not reimburse retiree Medicare Part B premiums, as it has not been reimbursed since September 1, 2008 as indicated above.
- D. An eligible employee may change his/her coverage only during the announced open enrollment period for each year after having been enrolled in the former plan for a minimum of one (1) full year. Regardless of this election, employees are specifically ineligible for any deductible reimbursement.
- E. When a member from this bargaining unit is granted the privilege of a leave of absence without pay for illness, health coverage will continue at County expense for the balance of the calendar month in which the leave commences plus up to three (3) additional calendar months next following the month in which the leave commences. After that time has elapsed, if necessary, coverage for an additional period of eighteen (18) months may be purchased by the employee under the C.O.B.R.A. plan.

In the case of consecutive leaves of absence without pay, it is understood and agreed that the responsibilities of the County to pay for benefits remains limited to the original period of up to four (4) months.

ARTICLE 31

FAMILY DENTAL PLAN

All members covered by this bargaining unit and working thirty-two and one-half (32.5) hours or more shall be permitted to enroll after the first of the month following three (3) full months of employment in a Family Dental Plan.

The Family Dental Plan will be made available to eligible employees, spouses and children to age 19. The maximum total cost for services per patient per benefit year is limited to \$2,000. There will be a \$25.00 deductible for up to the first three members of each family. However, this deductible is not applicable to preventive and diagnostic

services described below:

If the patient utilizes a participating dentist the percentage of coverage indicated next to each class of dental care will prevail:

Preventive and diagnostic
(x-rays, cleaning, checkup, etc.).....100%

Treatment and therapy
(Fillings)..... 80%

Prosthodontics and periodontics, inlays,
caps and crowns,
oral surgery (ambulatory)50%

Orthodontics(limited to \$800. per patient
over a 5 year period)50%

ARTICLE 32

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF THE UNION

- A. The County agrees to make available to the Union all public information needed to process any grievance or complaint between the County and the Union.
- B. Whenever any representative of the Union or an employee is mutually scheduled by the parties to participate during working hours in negotiations, grievance procedures, conferences or meetings, he/she shall suffer no loss in pay.
- C. The Union shall have the use of the bulletin boards and County mail system to contact their members.
- D. Each member of the Union shall be provided with one (1) copy of the Agreement.
- E. Employees who are subject to interviews which they reasonably believe may lead to disciplinary action against them shall have the right to request the presence of a Union Representative at such interviews.

ARTICLE 33
SALARY

- A. The minimum salaries for titles covered by this Agreement shall be increased by One Thousand and Forty Dollars (\$1,040) in each year of the collective negotiations agreement.

The minimums salaries are set forth in Appendix A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

- B. Effective April 1, 2023, and retroactive thereto, employees in the bargaining unit shall receive an increase of 2.25%, but not less than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) applied to their March 31, 2023 base salary, or the minimum salary, whichever is greater.
- C. Effective April 1, 2024, employees in the bargaining unit shall receive an increase of 2.25%, but not less than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) applied to their March 31, 2024 base salary, or the minimum salary, whichever is greater.
- D. Effective April 1, 2025, employees in the bargaining unit shall receive an increase of 2.25%, but not less than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500) applied to their March 31, 2025 base salary, or the minimum salary, whichever is greater.
- E. Employees working less than forty (40) hours per week shall have any flat dollar adjustments or minimum salary for the title held, pro-rated.
- F. There will be a stipend of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500.00) for any employee having "Bilingual Spanish/English" as part of their title. Effective April 1, 2024, this stipend shall increase to Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.).
- G. *A new employee must have worked for the County for at least six (6) consecutive months prior to the April 1st increase date to be eligible for the increase. If the employee does not have six (6) months of consecutive employment with the County on April 1st, the employee will not be eligible for the yearly increase until the next following April 1st. For example, an employee hired November 1, 2022, will not be eligible for the April 1, 2023 increase, but will receive an increase on April 1, 2024. However, this employee would not be paid less than the new minimum.*

ARTICLE 34
FULLY BARGAINED CLAUSE

The parties agree that they have fully bargained and agreed upon all terms and conditions of employment that were or could have been the subject of negotiations. This Agreement represents and incorporates the complete and final understanding and settlement by the parties of all bargainable issues which were or could have been the subject of negotiations. There shall be no new negotiations on any such matters during the term of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 35
DURATION

The terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement shall become effective on April 1, 2023 except for those Articles which contain specific dates to the contrary, and shall continue in full force and effect until March 31, 2026 or until execution of a successor Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be signed and attested to this 9th day of February 2024.

ATTEST:

OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

Michelle I. Gunther
Michelle I. Gunther
Clerk of the Board 2/9/2024

Barbara Jo Crea
Barbara Jo Crea
Commission Director

ATTEST:

OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Mandi Munnings

Bradley D. Billhimer
Bradley D. Billhimer, Prosecutor

WITNESS

Mary E. Gray

FOR OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S
OFFICE CLERICAL ASSOCIATION:

Leanna D'Amico
Leanna D'Amico, President

APPENDIX A

MINIMUM SALARIES

Effective April 1, 2023

	<u>37.5 Hours</u>	<u>40 hours</u>
Keyboard Clerk 1 & Keyboard Clerk 1 Bi-Lingual	\$35,100	\$37,440
Keyboard Clerk 2 & Keyboard Clerk 2 Bi-Lingual	\$37,913	\$40,440
Keyboard Clerk 3 & Keyboard Clerk 3 Bi-Lingual	\$40,725	\$43,440

Effective April 1, 2024

	<u>37.5 Hours</u>	<u>40 hours</u>
Keyboard Clerk 1 & Keyboard Clerk 1 Bi-Lingual	\$36,075	\$38,480
Keyboard Clerk 2 & Keyboard Clerk 2 Bi-Lingual	\$38,888	\$41,480
Keyboard Clerk 3 & Keyboard Clerk 3 Bi-Lingual	\$41,700	\$44,480

Effective April 1, 2025

	<u>37.5 Hours</u>	<u>40 hours</u>
Keyboard Clerk 1 & Keyboard Clerk 1 Bi-Lingual	\$37,050	\$39,520
Keyboard Clerk 2 & Keyboard Clerk 2 Bi-Lingual	\$39,863	\$42,520
Keyboard Clerk 3 & Keyboard Clerk 3 Bi-Lingual	\$42,675	\$45,520